



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Dear Colorado Veterinarian:

The vector-borne diseases program at the state health department is instituting passive surveillance for ticks found on companion animals in Colorado. The intent of the surveillance is to extrapolate the geographic distribution of different tick species by collecting samples from domestic companion animals with known exposure areas. This surveillance is directly relevant to companion animal exposures to tick-borne disease agents, and is a valuable proxy for estimating human exposure risk to ticks in different areas of our state.

CDPHE will accept any life stage (larva, nymph, or adult) of the tick, and ticks will be identified to species by CDPHE's medical entomologist. Information gained through this surveillance effort will be used to create public health messages about risk to humans of acquiring tick-borne diseases, and can also be used by veterinarians to estimate disease risk to animals. Tick distribution maps and information about tick-borne diseases will be made available to the public on the state health department website.

Tick samples should be placed in a rigid plastic container such as a prescription pill bottle. Cotton balls can be used to loosely pack the sample so it does not become damaged during shipping. Ticks can alternately be placed in alcohol in a leak-proof container. Samples should be sent with a copy of the submission form to:

CDPHE

ATTN: MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY - A3

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO, 80246

Submitters who would like to know the species of the tick samples they submit can be informed by email if they leave their email contact information on the submission form.